

DOCUMENTS FOR COMMERCE IN TRADING
PARTNER NETWORKS AND INTERFACE DEFINITIONS BASED ON
THE DOCUMENTS

ABSTRACT

5 Machine readable documents connect businesses with customers,
suppliers and trading partners. The self defining electronic documents, such as
XML based documents, can be easily understood amongst the partners.
Definitions of these electronics business documents, called business interface
definitions, are posted on the Internet, or otherwise communicated to members
10 of the network. The business interface definitions tell potential trading partners
the services the company offers and the documents to use when communicating
with such services. Thus, a typical business interface definition allows a
customer to place an order by submitting a purchase order or a supplier checks
availability by downloading an inventory status report. Also, composition of the
15 input and output documents, coupled with interpretation information in a
common business library, programs the transaction in a way which closely
parallels the way in which paper based businesses operate.